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iHeartRadio Awards

Taylor Swift Wins Artist of the Year

GAME OF THRONES

A SWORD-AND-SANDALS PHENOMENON

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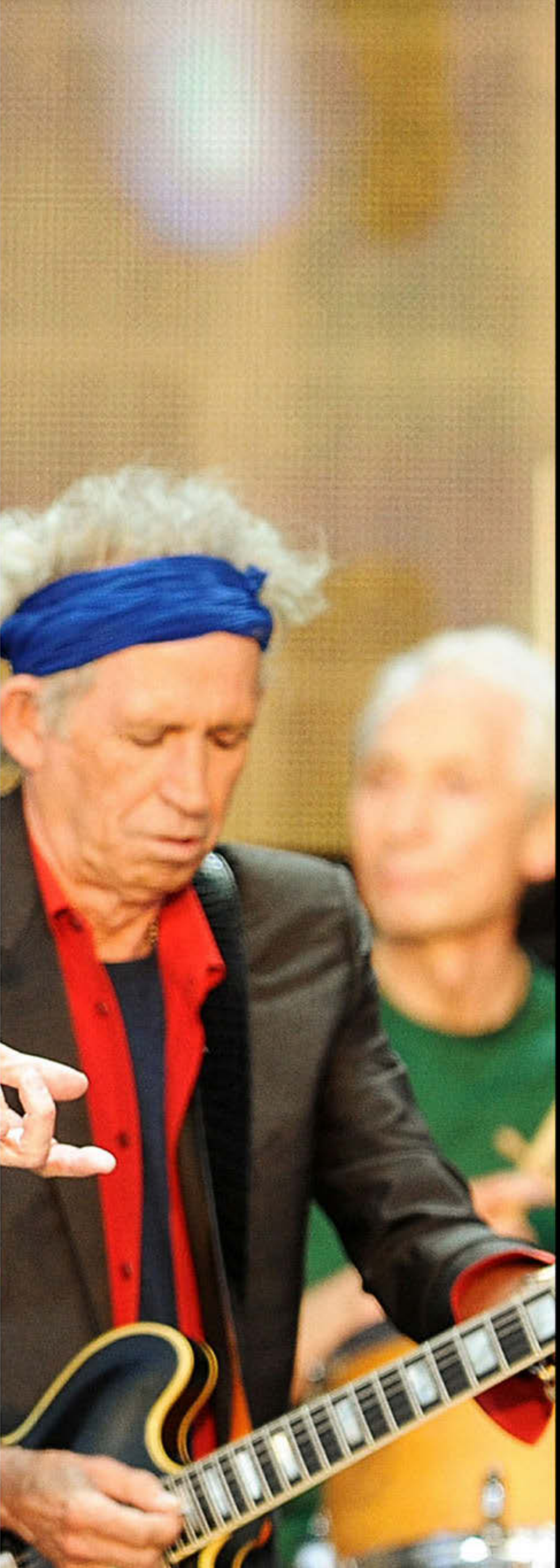
Rolling Stones Announce North American Stadium Tour

The Rolling Stones are zipping across North America again.

The rock band announced a 15-city stadium tour Tuesday that will kick off May 24 at Petco Park in San Diego, California. Other stops include Columbus, Ohio; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dallas, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Orlando, Florida; and Nashville, Tennessee.

The so-called “Zip Code” tour will once again reunite singer Mick Jagger, drummer Charlie Watts and guitarists Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood.





The last time the Rolling Stones played North American stadiums was during their “A Bigger Bang Tour” in 2006. They opted for arena venues for their “50 & Counting” tour in 2012 and 2013.

“We love being out on the road and it is great to come back to North America,” said Keith Richards in a statement. “I can’t wait to get back on the stage!”

And quite the stage it will be, including a section that juts far into the crowd, allowing the Stones to interact with fans. As is the band’s practice, the stage design will employ cutting-edge technology to enhance the performance, including video screens and special effects.

Other cities on the “Zip Code” tour include Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Kansas City, Missouri; Raleigh, North Carolina; Indianapolis, Indiana; Detroit, Michigan; Buffalo, New York; and Quebec, Canada. Tickets will go on sale April 13.

The “Zip Code” tour will coincide with the rerelease of their seminal album “Sticky Fingers” on May 26. The 1971 recording features such Stones classics as “Brown Sugar,” “Wild Horses” and “Dead Flowers.”

The band interrupted last year’s “14 On Fire” and rescheduled all their Australia and New Zealand dates after fashion designer L’Wren Scott, Jagger’s companion since 2001, took her own life. The tour concluded Nov. 22, 2014 at the Mount Smart Stadium in Auckland, New Zealand.

Online:

http://www.rollingstones.com





Jay z, Madonna, Minaj Among Owners of New Streaming Service

Madonna, Rihanna, Beyonce and Jay Z are among the A-List musicians who are co-owners of Tidal, a streaming service being billed as the first artist-owned platform for music and video.

The membership-based service - similar to subscription service Spotify - will provide music and video content that users can stream on computers, tablets and smartphones or listen to offline. It is being offered at two price points: $10 for standard sound quality and $20 for “lossless high fidelity sound quality.”





Few other details were released about the streaming service.

Kanye West, Daft Punk, Alicia Keys, Jack White and Nicki Minaj also were among the artists who announced at a New York City event Monday that they are co-owners of the service that quietly launched in October. Keys said the artists hope Tidal will “forever change the course of music history” and ensure the viability of the industry.

The celebrities - who also included Jason Aldean, Usher, members of Arcade Fire and deadmau5





- stood in a line onstage as Keys spoke to the audience at Skylight at Moynihan Station in Manhattan. Most of them wore black as a sign of solidarity. Keys called the event “a graduation.”

“So we come together before you on this day, March 30th, 2015, with one voice in unity in the hopes that today will be another one of those moments in time, a moment that will forever change the course of music history. For today we announce of Tidal, the first ever artist-owned, global music and entertainment platform,” Keys said.

The venue for the event was transformed to display a walkway paying tribute to the different decades in music, starting with the 1950s.

Coldplay’s Chris Martin and Calvin Harris, who both appeared via video, are also co-owners.

“Our mission goes beyond commerce, it goes beyond technology. Our intent is to preserve music’s importance in our lives,” Keys said. “Music is the language of love, of laughter, of heartbreak, of mystery. It’s the world’s true, true, without question, universal language.”

Each of the owners signed documents at the event as the audience screamed when they walked to a table in the center of the stage.

Online

http://tidal.com/us





Destiny's Child Reunites at Stellar Gospel Awards

A reunited Destiny's Child took the stage at the Stellar Gospel Music Awards on Saturday as singer Erica Campbell took home six awards, including the night's top honor.

Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland joined Michelle Williams in a surprise performance of Williams' single, "Say Yes," which also netted an award for music video of the year.

Campbell was the night's big winner at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, winning artist of the year as well as female vocalist and CD of the year for "Help."

Tiffany Joy McGhee's "Amazing" was named song of the year, and Deitrick Haddon took male vocalist honors. Deitrick Haddon's LXW also won in the contemporary choir category.

The awards will be broadcast April 5 on the TV One network.





Dreamworks' 'Home' Bests 'Get Hard' at Box Office with $54m

Business was brisk at the weekend box-office, where the DreamWorks animated alien adventure "Home" beat out the Will Ferrell-Kevin Hart comedy "Get Hard" with a resounding debut of $54 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.





While the two films had been expected to vie for the top spot at North American theaters, “Home” came in well above expectations, handing DreamWorks Animation a much-needed hit. Though a distant second, “Get Hard” also opened strongly with an estimated $34.6 million, rewarding the Warner Bros. pairing of two of the most bankable stars in comedy.

Last week’s top film, the young-adult sequel “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” slid to third with $22.1 million.

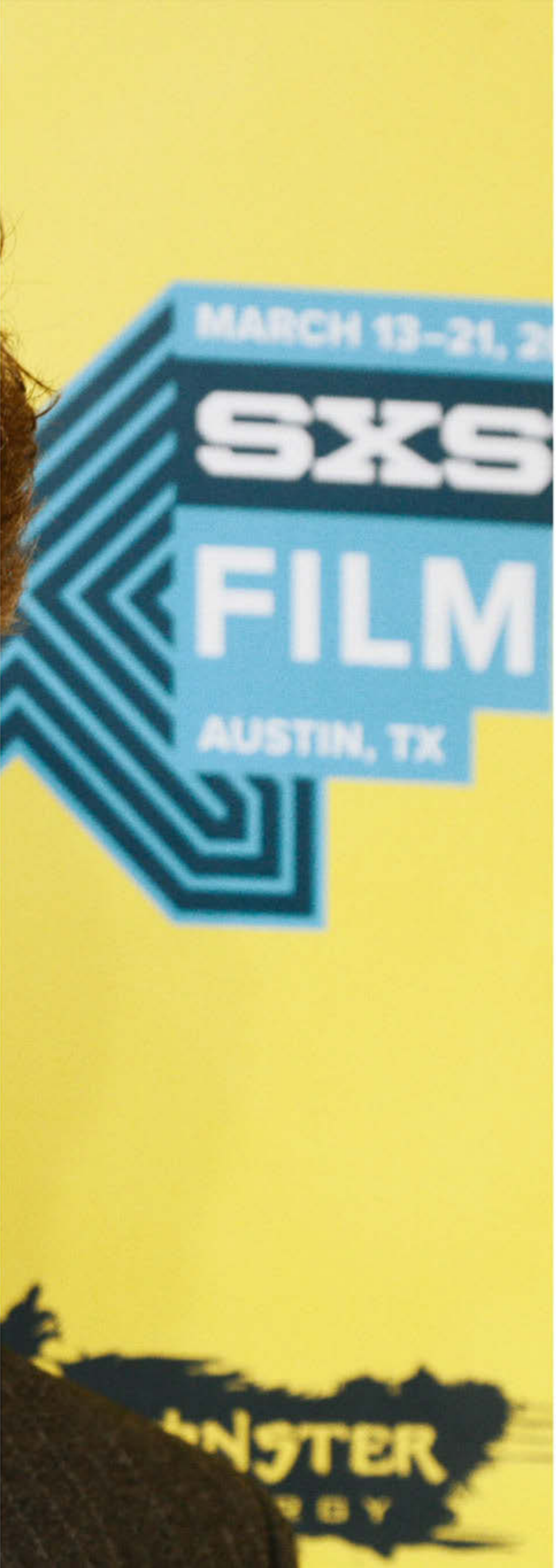
With a $100 million-plus debut expected next weekend for “Furious 7” - a franchise built on street-racing adrenaline and a diverse cast - Hollywood scored with two films that sought a variety of audiences.

“Get Hard” united the fans of Hart and Ferrell, albeit while finding some criticism for its racial humor. And “Home” is the rare animated film led by an African-American girl protagonist (voiced by Rihanna). She plays a teenage girl left alone after an alien invasion of Earth. Jim Parsons, Jennifer Lopez and Steve Martin round out the cast.

“It’s a diverse cast and we drew a diverse audience, which I think is really special and something you don’t see in animated films,” said Chris Aronson, domestic distribution head for 20th Century Fox, the film’s distributor. “That just ends up broadening the appeal of the film.”

Minorities made up more than half of the audience for “Home,” according to Fox. The strong performance of an original release, based on a children’s book by Adam Rex, provides Jeffrey Katzenberg’s DreamWorks with a welcome lift. After a series of box-office disappointments, the studio cut about 500 jobs earlier this year.

Aronson called the success of “Home” “indicative of the direction, quality-wise, that DreamWorks is going to get back to.” One of the film’s producers, Mireille Soria, was in January named co-president



of DreamWorks Animation, along with "How to Train Your Dragon" producer Bonnie Arnold.

Despite the lure of March Madness on TV screens, "Home" (which capitalized on the relative dearth of family-friendly options) and "Get Hard" drove moviegoers to theaters. Overall, the box office was up about 8 percent from last year, according to box-office data firm Rentrak.

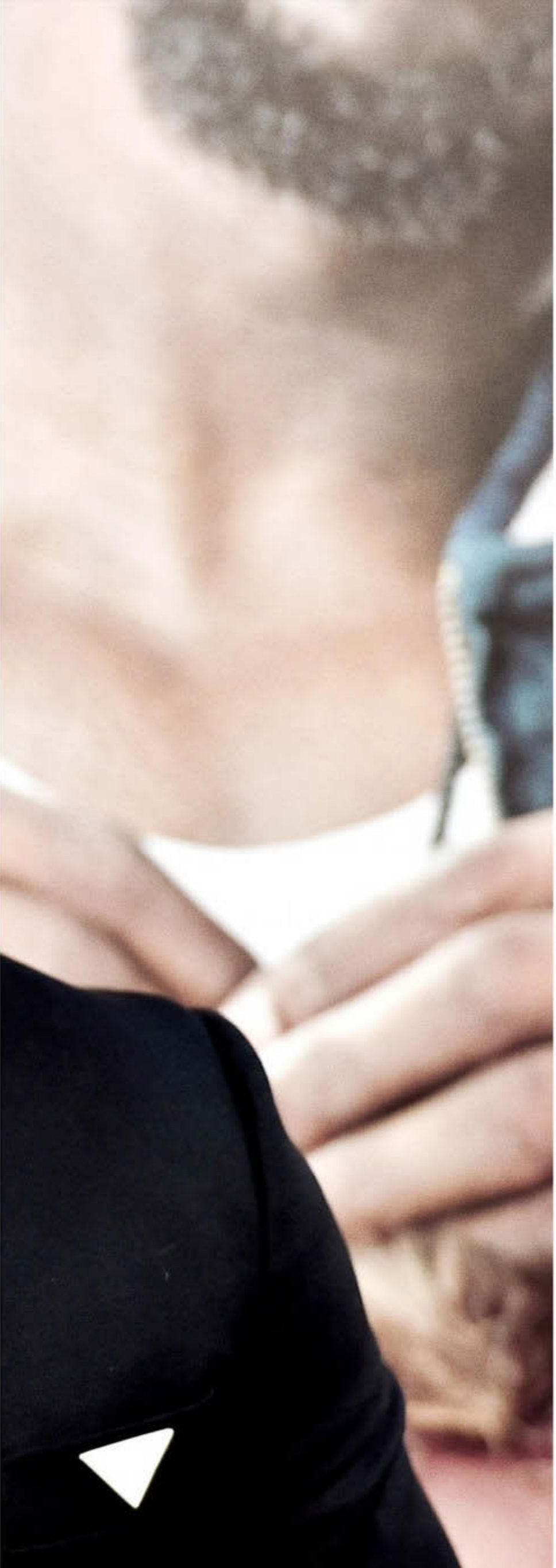
"Get Hard" had been dogged by controversy, as some questioned the tastefulness of humor that critics called homophobic and racist. The directorial debut of Etan Cohen, it stars Ferrell as a hedge fund manager sentenced to a maximum security prison for fraud. To prepare for life in prison, he turns to the only black person in his orbit, a family man played by Hart.

"When Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart get together, you hope to have some criticism," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. He added that it's the biggest R-rated opening for both Hart and Ferrell.

The wild card of the weekend was "It Follows," a critically acclaimed indie horror film from Radius, the Weinstein Company label. After the film drew packed theaters in limited release, plans for a subsequent video-on-demand release were postponed and "It Follows" expanded to 1,218 theaters over the weekend. It pulled in $4 million over the weekend.

"It's an interesting test case," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Rentrak, who applauded Radius for having the confidence in a small, very low budget movie. "It's rare for a horror film to enjoy those kind of reviews. Ordinarily, you don't see a platform building of theaters for a horror movie. Usually, you see them drop like a rock in the second week."





Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Home,” $54 million ($24 million international).

2. “Get Hard,” $34.6 million ($4.6 million international).

3. “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” $22.1 million ($29.9 million international).

4. “Cinderella,” $17.5 million ($38.7 million international).

5. “It Follows,” $4 million.

6. “Kingsman: The Secret Service,” $3.1 million ($25 million international).

7. “Run All Night,” $2.2 million ($2.1 million international).

8. “Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,” $2.2 million ($2.3 million international).

9. “Do You Believe?” $2.2 million.

10. “The Gunman,” $2 million





Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. “Cinderella,” $38.7 million.

2. “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” $29.9 million.

3. “Kingsman: The Secret Service,” $25 million.

4. “Home,” $24 million.

5. “Focus,” $8.2 million.

6. “Twenty,” $6.9 million.

7. “Taken 3,” $6.1 million.

8. “The SpongeBob Movie,” $5.4 million.

9. “Lost and Love,” $5.2 million.

10. “Get Hard,” $4.6 million.



GAME OF THRONES:

A SWORD-AND-SANDALS PHENOMENON

The ultimate swords-and-sex fantasy

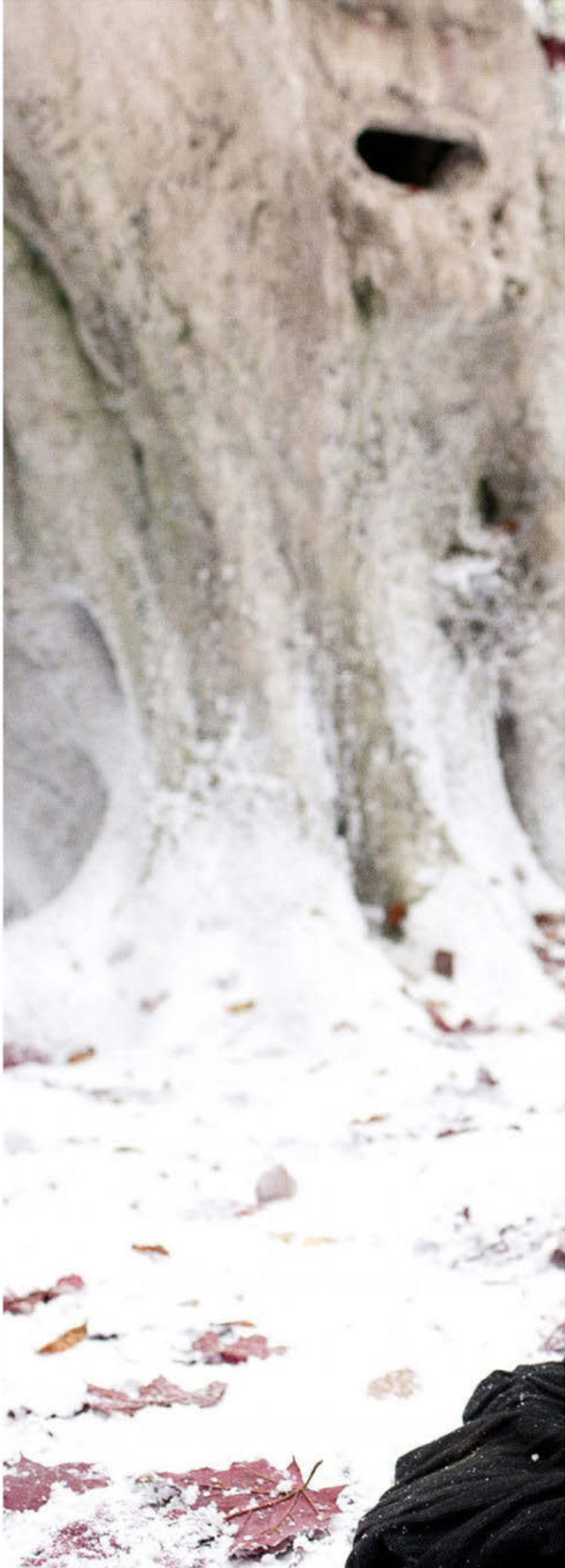


LATEST SERIES TIPPED TO PREMIERE ON HBO NOW

Few fantasy TV dramas have captured the popular imagination quite like Game of Thrones. The HBO series is adapted from George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire novels, and is filmed on location in various spots around the world, from the United States, Morocco and Iceland to Spain, Croatia and Northern Ireland. It has also attracted staggering viewer numbers. As the fifth series primes itself for an April 12 premiere amid rumors that it will coincide with the launch of the HBO NOW streaming service, we ask: how and why has it become such a phenomenon?

Game of Thrones is set at the end of a decade-long summer on the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos, and draws upon a broad ensemble cast in its interweaving of multiple plotlines. The story centers on such narrative arcs as a civil war between numerous noble houses for the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, the emerging threat of the impending winter and the efforts made to reclaim the throne by the deposed ruling dynasty of the exiled last scion of the realm.

The series is backed by some seriously heavyweight talent, including its creators, showrunners and executive producers David Benioff and D. B. Weiss, alongside such cast members as Aidan Gillen (who plays Petyr Baelish or "Littlefinger"), Lena Headey (Cersei Baratheon), Jack Gleeson (Joffrey





Baratheon), Natalie Dormer (Margaery Baratheon), Stephen Dillane (Stannis Baratheon) and Michael McElhatton (Roose Bolton). However, in many ways, the real lures of Game of Thrones for the audience are arguably more elementary ones: brutal sword-wielding, spilt blood and breasts bursting out of their bodices.



THE SIMPLE REASONS BEHIND GOT'S POPULARITY

Writing for the BBC as the fourth series of Game of Thrones debuted, Ken Tucker attributed the show's immense following in large part to the decision to "add thriller-action pacing and exploitation-film nudity" to a formula that might have otherwise drawn a merely niche audience. He pointed out that as strong sellers as Martin's original novels were, "the size of the audience for epic fantasy fiction is a fraction of what is needed to make a profit on television."

It was the program's "graphic naughtiness", said Tucker, that was instrumental in winning it its huge viewer figures, which amounted to five million a week by the time its third season had concluded. However, even he admitted that a mere combination of "blood and breasts" would not have been sufficient to give it its iconic status on social media, explaining that "This is because Game of Thrones, for all its grimness and brutality, represents a return of old-fashioned escapism. Game of Thrones invites you to join a world where you can solve your problems with a sword and saddle."

Understanding how Tucker came to that conclusion is not difficult. Game of Thrones certainly does seem to be a powerful antidote to today's morally constrained society, in which you can't simply banish your woes with the well-executed slash of a bladed weapon. The situation for the characters in the show is very different - its plays to the decidedly primal appeal of revenge and triumph.

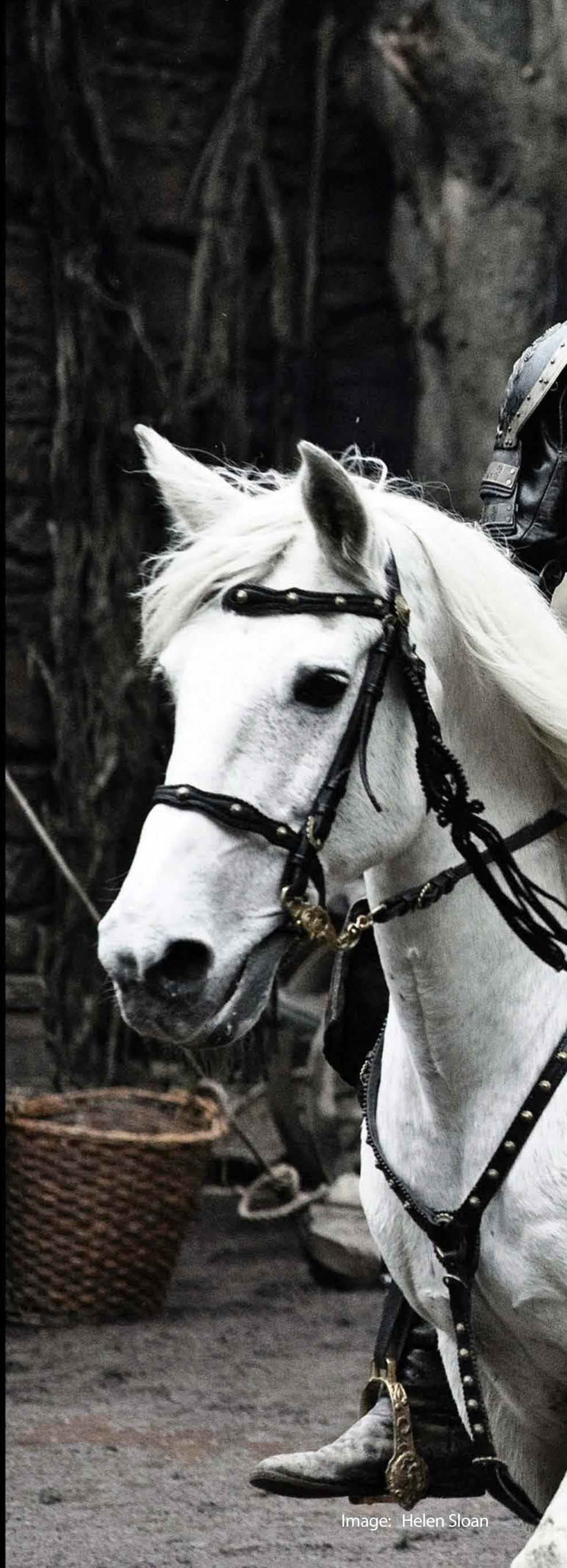


Image: Helen Sloan







There's something very much 'back to basics' about Game of Thrones, and its portrayal of a universe in which one's most pressing campaign is just keeping one's head.

AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING SUCCESS STORY

Not everything about such a distinctive approach has attracted universal admiration, with many detractors questioning the suitability in today's world of the show's frequent depiction of nudity, violence and sexual violence towards women. Nonetheless, praise for the series has come from seemingly every source, all four of its seasons so far having attracted a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Drama Series.

Game of Thrones has also previously been nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series - Drama, in addition to claiming a Peabody Award and a Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation in both Long Form and Short Form. Cast member Peter Dinklage, who plays Tyrion Lannister, has also been honored for his performances with an Emmy and a Golden Globe. **The show's present 9.5/10 rating on IMBb** surely says it all about how universally it is appreciated by both professional critics and the ordinary viewer.





But one thing that has perhaps gone relatively unnoticed is the immense benefit that such success has brought for the wider television industry, and even sectors that have little to do with TV. Certainly, HBO itself has been kept in rude health by the average of 18.6 million viewers per episode that the most recent series enjoyed in America, after repeats and on-demand television are taken into account. That made it even more popular than The Sopranos, with the resultant revenue helping the network to develop further great shows like True Detective.





BENEFITS IN GAMING, TOURISM AND MORE

However, **the positive knock-on effects have also been felt in the wider entertainment industry**, 32Red having developed a slot machine themed around the series, while last December, the latest Game of Thrones video game was released, courtesy of Telltale Games. Although the game didn't attract

Image: Zlatko Unger

a huge amount of attention and has drawn merely mixed-to-positive reviews, its release in a gradual episodic format will surely help to build up interest, particularly once the show returns to air.

There has been a noticeable impact, too, in the tourism sector, which shouldn't necessarily be a big shock given the wide-ranging nature of the program's sets. Even so, the difference made to the lucky parts of the world to have been made backdrops for Game of Thrones is impressive - a 28 percent rise in tourism in Dubrovnik (Kings Landing), Croatia in 2012, a 13 percent increase in Iceland (The Wall) and 100 percent for the Moroccan desert town of Ouarzazate. The Northern Ireland executive has claimed a £65 million boost to the country's coffers as a consequence of Game of Thrones-related tourism.



Then, there has been the enhanced fortunes of the Games of Thrones actors themselves - for whom the series has generally served as a powerful career stepping stone. The new Terminator: Genisys movie, for instance, sees Emilia Clarke - known in the show for her turn as Daenerys Targaryen - play Sarah Connor, the franchise's iconic female lead. Dormer, meanwhile, plays Cressida in both parts of The Hunger Game: Mockingjay, and Kit Harington has built on his part in the program as Jon Snow by starring as the gladiator Milo in the 2014 film, Pompeii.







ENTER HBO NOW...

How could series five possibly top all of that commercial success and cultural impact? Well, one point of interest has certainly been created by the reports suggesting that **HBO's new cable-free, standalone streaming service, HBO NOW, will be launched in time for the show's return**. The premiere date is April 12, and we already know that the service will be available at some point this month, so those reports seem credible to us.

If such suggestions do turn out to be true, we really are just days away from a very exciting package - a streaming service in the Netflix mold that removes the need to fork out for a traditional premium cable package. A price of $15 per month has been mooted, which could make HBO NOW a very good value means of accessing a wealth of highly regarded original programming, to say nothing of whatever else may become available on the platform.

But of course, whatever you watch via HBO NOW, we suspect that the next series of Game of Thrones will figure highly on your priority list. If the latest season of the now-legendary show in any way echoes the previous four, it'll make a very enthralling watch indeed for all followers of high-octane and saucy fantasy drama. ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan



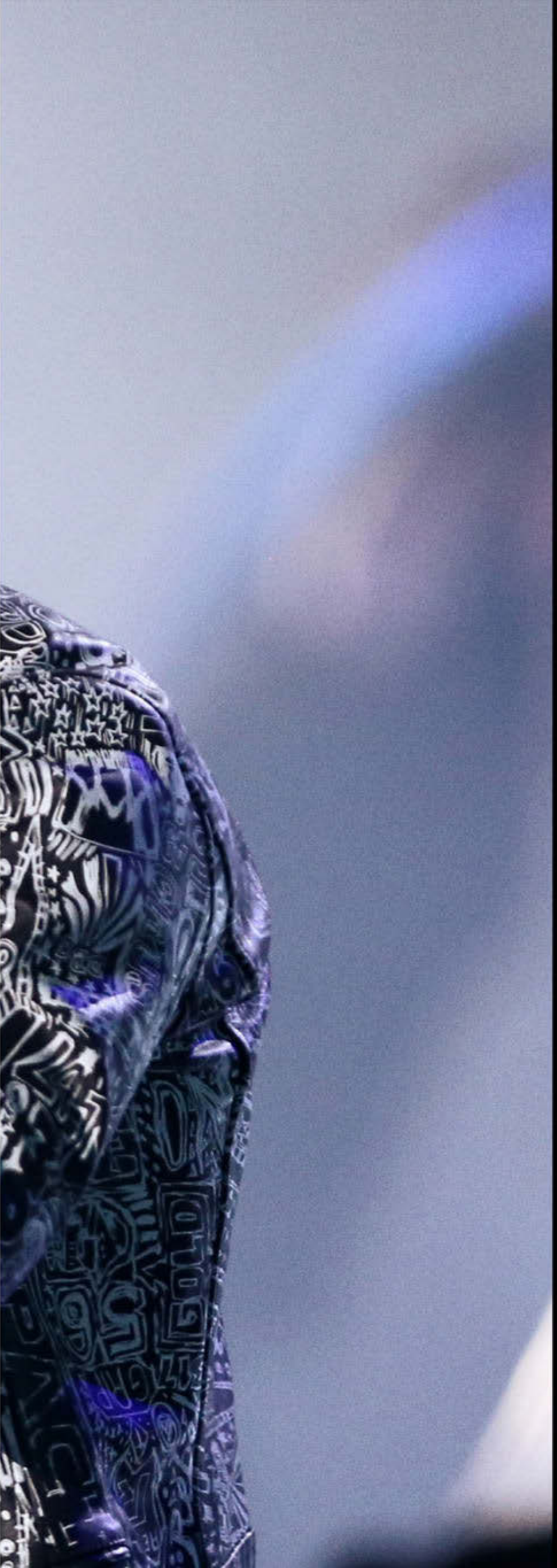




Jolie Delivers Empowerment Message at Kids' Choice Awards

The traditional green slime flowed at the Kids' Choice Awards, but it was Angelina Jolie's message of empowerment for youngsters that stuck.

Jolie, who has sought to inspire women with public candor about her own health, said that "different is good" as she accepted the favorite villain award Saturday for her movie role as the title character in "Maleficent."



When she was young, Jolie said, “I was told I was different. And I felt out of place: too loud, too full of fire, never good at sitting still, never good at fitting in.”

“When someone tells you that you are different, smile and hold your head up and be proud,” she said, then added with a wink, “cause a little trouble. It’s good for you.”

The actress and filmmaker, who disclosed earlier this week that she had undergone additional surgery aimed at preventing cancer, received excited hugs from daughters Shiloh and Zahara when her name was announced.

Other winners at the Nickelodeon channel’s fan-voted awards included Emma Stone, who largely escaped its trademark slime when she accepted the best actress award for her role in “The Amazing Spider-Man 2,” and favorite family TV show “Modern Family,” whose stars including Jesse Tyler Ferguson didn’t get away clean.

Nick Jonas hosted the ceremony, which also honored the group Fifth Harmony as favorite new artist and Liam Hemsworth and Jennifer Lawrence of “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” as favorite action stars. The film was voted favorite movie.

Jonas won as favorite male singer but also ended up drenched in the ceremony’s trademark green slime, as did Josh Gad (“Frozen,” Broadway’s “Book of Mormon”), who got slimed by co-presenter Adam Sandler.

Performers included Iggy Azalea with Jennifer Hudson and 5 Seconds of Summer, which ended up taking a goo hit.

Jonas opened the ceremony by noting that One Direction was minus a group member with the exit of Zayn Malik.

“A tough week. ... Lot of girls in the house tonight still struggling after One Direction became Two Direction,” he said, then asked, jokingly, “What’s





next? Fourth Harmony? 3 Seconds of Summer? No, no. The Jonas Brother?"

One Direction didn't appear to accept its trophy as favorite music group.

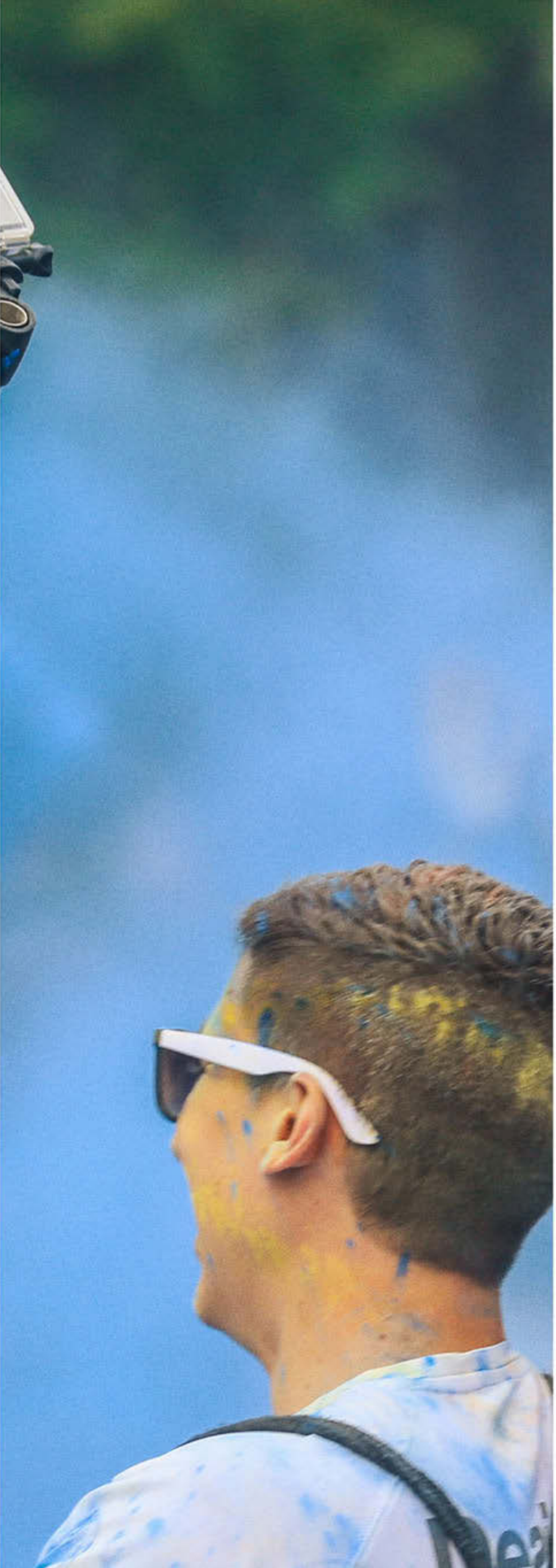
Others taking part in the ceremony included Jamie Foxx, Meghan Trainor, Chris Rock, Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, Kevin James and Little League Baseball sensation Mo'ne Davis.

Jolie, writing in the New York Times on Tuesday, revealed that she had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed in hopes of reducing her risk of cancer.

Two years ago, she disclosed that she carries a defective breast cancer gene that puts her at high risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Her mother died of ovarian cancer, and her maternal grandmother also had ovarian cancer - strong evidence of an inherited, genetic risk that led Jolie to have her healthy breasts removed to try to avoid the same fate.

Online:

http://www.nick.com/kids-choice-awards



No 'Narsisstics': Music Festivals Ban Fans' Selfie Sticks

You can bring your beach towels and floral headbands, but forget that selfie stick if you're going to the Coachella or Lollapalooza music festivals.

The sticks are banned this year at the events in Indio, California, and Chicago. Coachella dismissed them as "narsisstics" on a list of prohibited items.

Selfie sticks have become a popular but polemical photo-taking tool: Avid picture takers like perching their cellphones on the lengthening devices to snap their own shots in front of monuments and sunsets, but critics dismiss them as obnoxious and potentially dangerous to others.

Museums in the U.S. and Europe, including the Palace of Versailles outside Paris and Britain's National Gallery in London, have banned them.

A spokesperson for Coachella wouldn't comment on the restriction. Lollapalooza representatives didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Review: 'Woman in Gold,' A Remarkable Story Lifelessly Told



"Woman in Gold" has a rich story to tell. The true account of Maria Altmann's fight to reclaim a famed Gustav Klimt painting of her aunt, "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I," first stolen by the Nazis and then appropriated by Austria after the war, is laced with riveting history, deep and complex emotion, and fascinating bureaucracy. Yet director Simon Curtis's rendering of Altmann's tale, though respectful and pretty, is somehow lifeless.



There is almost too much here for a single movie. Curtis, who charmed with his Marilyn Monroe slice of life “My Week with Marilyn,” relies on a combination of flashbacks of Maria’s pre-war life in Vienna and the present day tick-tock of her legal quest to take ownership of the painting.

Played in the present by Helen Mirren, Maria is a prickly woman with a thick Austrian accent. She owns a boutique in a fancy part of Los Angeles and, following the death of her sister, has made up her mind that she would like to claim what is hers. The man she convinces to help her is Randy Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds), a dull corporate lawyer with a prestigious pedigree and a few poor career choices on his resume.

It’s been over 60 years since Maria fled Austria during World War II and she is sickened by the thought of returning, refusing to even speak the language when they arrive abroad to plead their case. In Vienna, they’re helped by a young native journalist (Daniel Brühl) who functions mostly as a human exposition vehicle.

With two actors as charming as Mirren and Reynolds anchoring the story, it’s a bit disarming that their charisma never really manages to energize the sluggish tale. Part of that is for effect - they’re supposed to grow to love and admire one another while he learns to respect her history - but the eventual payoff doesn’t connect. These characters aren’t equipped to deliver the lively generational comedy that this story so desperately needs.

The flashbacks, ranging from Maria’s childhood to her early 20s (“Orphan Black’s” Tatiana Maslany), are meant to contextualize Maria’s plight. We see a spirited girl’s life upended by the war, the brutality of the Nazi regime and the faceless indifference of her fellow countrymen. But, seeped in the obligatory sepia and lace, these sequences are as adventurous as a paint-by-numbers, with the exception of a heart-pounding chase sequence.



A recurring theme throughout the film is that everyone has forgotten the horrors of the Holocaust - that no one really cares about the living history of so many. It's an interesting question, but "Woman in Gold" doesn't have the guts to go too deep on that or any of the complexities around Maria's quest.

Also, instead of engaging in any dialogue about the idea of reclamation, the film has a predetermined moral narrative. From the beginning, the Austrians are portrayed as thieving, greedy, petty and wholly disinterested in the past traumas of its exiled citizens.

It doesn't even really function as a thrilling legal drama, even when they reach the Supreme Court of the United States. Every victory and "ah-ha" moment plays like a shrug. Perhaps the lesson is that there is no actual triumph in reclamation.

As for Randy, with a wife and a baby at home and a brand new job at a prestigious firm on the line, he has no reason to get tangled up with Maria. At one point he cries that he only said yes because he discovered the worth of the paintings, but as his professional life caves in around this long fight, his motives become even more bewildering. The movie tells us that he matures, but it fails to show it in a meaningful way.

"Woman in Gold" reaches for glossy, based-on-a-true-story cinematic heights with the depth of one of its made-for-television counterparts.

"Woman in Gold," a Weinstein Company release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some thematic elements and brief strong language." Running time: 110 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.







iTunes **Preview**



Trailer

by Christopher Nolan
Genre: Sci-Fi & Fantasy
Released: 2014
Price: $19.99

★★★★★
996 Ratings

Movies & TV Shows



Interstellar

The latest epic from the director behind The Dark Knight trilogy, Christopher Nolan, charts the tale of a team of astronauts who embark on a covert journey through a wormhole, in search of a new home for humanity. The pioneers' quest to find an alternative habitable planet is prompted by the threat posed to life on Earth by epidemic crop failures.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Interstellar stars Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain and Michael Caine.

2. The film was inspired by the work of Caltech theoretical physicist Kip Thorne, who also served as an executive producer and scientific consultant.

3. Cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema shot the film on anamorphic 35mm and IMAX 70mm photography.

4. Filming took place from late 2013 in Alberta, Iceland and Los Angeles.

5. The movie won the Oscar for Best Visual Effects at the 87th Academy Awards.

See more in iTunes



Interview with Christopher Nolan

The Imitation Game



Benedict Cumberbatch stars as British cryptanalyst and World War II hero Alan Turing, whose real life leadership of a motley crew of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers was instrumental in cracking the codes of the Nazi German Enigma machine - but who was also subject to a tragic fall from grace.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The film's screenplay, by Graham Moore, is loosely based on Andrew Hodges' biography, Alan Turing: The Enigma.

2. The screenplay topped the annual Black List for the best unproduced Hollywood scripts in 2011.

3. Other cast members include Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Rory Kinnear, Charles Dance and Mark Strong.

4. Turing's nephew, Sir John Dermot Turing, **has described Cumberbatch as the "perfect casting. I couldn't imagine anybody better."**

5. The movie won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.



Trailer

iTunes Preview

by Morten Tyldum
Genre: Drama
Released: 2014
Price: $14.99

★★★★½
308 Ratings

Rotten **Tomatoes**
CERTIFIED FRESH 89%


S T R
G E H E
L E B

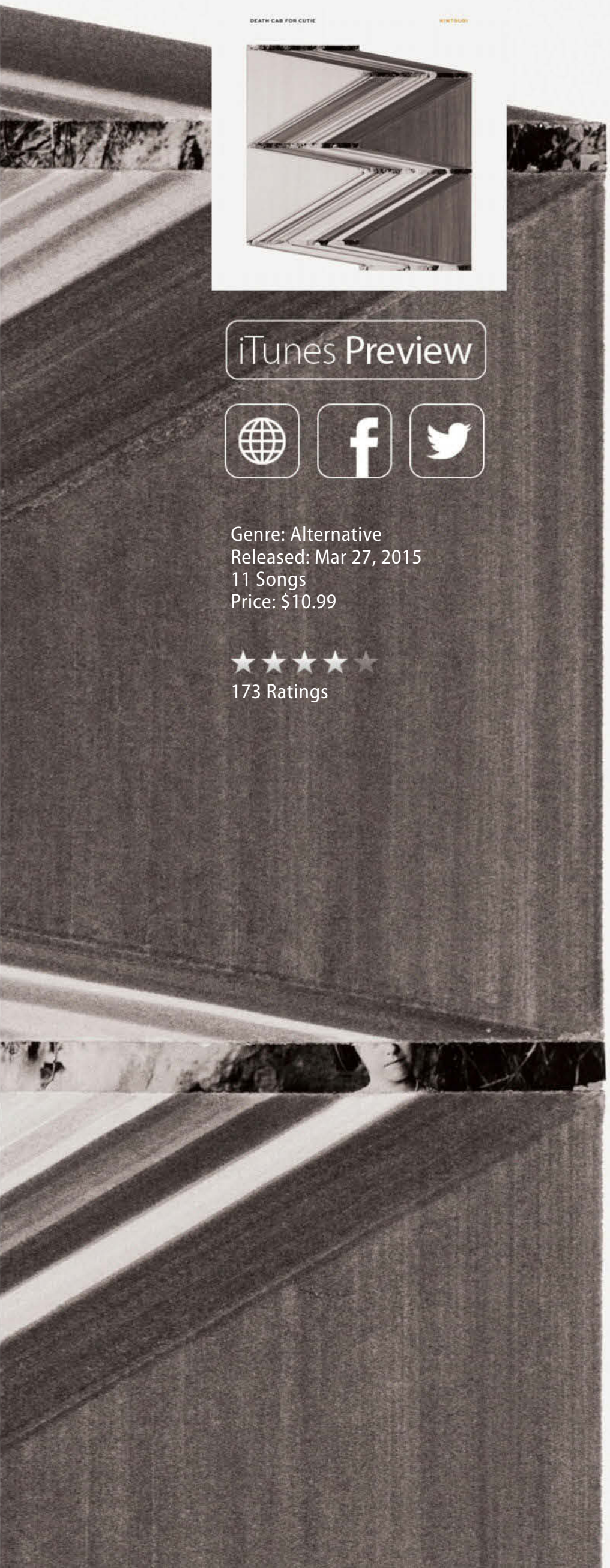


Interview with Benedict Cumberbatch



Black Sun

Music



Kintsugi

Death Cab for Cutie

Kintsugi - the eighth studio album of the indie rock band, and its first since 2011 - may be the last to feature lead guitarist and founding member Chris Walla, but there's still plenty more of interest here, not least the work of Walla's replacement on production duties, Rich Costey. Indeed, it is the group's first album to feature an outside producer.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The album's title refers to the Japanese art of kintsugi, which involves the fixing of broken pottery and treats breakage and repair as part of an object's history, rather than something to disguise.

2. It is the follow-up to 2011's Codes and Keys.

3. The band **was formed in Bellingham, Washington in 1997**.

4. The group presently comprises vocalist, guitarist and pianist Ben Gibbard, bassist Nick Harmer and drummer Jason McGerr.

5. Death Cab for Cutie is associated with the indie rock, indie pop, emo and alternative rock genres.

See more in iTunes



No Room in Frame



The Album About Nothing

Wale

Wale collaborated with Jerry Seinfeld on this fourth studio album, the rapper describing the comedian's role on The Album About Nothing as "the narrator". However, the sitcom star is just one member of a strong supporting cast that also includes producers like Jake One, DJ Khalil and Soundz. Usher, Jeremih and J. Cole are among the featured artists.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Wale is the stage name of Olubowale Victor Akintimehin.

2. Akintimehin was born on September 21, 1984 in Washington, D.C.

3. He rose to prominence in 2006, when his song "Dig Dug (Shake It)" became popular in his hometown.

4. He was discovered by producer Mark Ronson the same year, later being signed to Allido Records.

5. Wale has described the new album as **"super personal. It's like a journal that my whole lifestyle is based around."**



iTunes Preview

Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap
Released: Mar 31, 2015
14 Songs
Price: $9.99

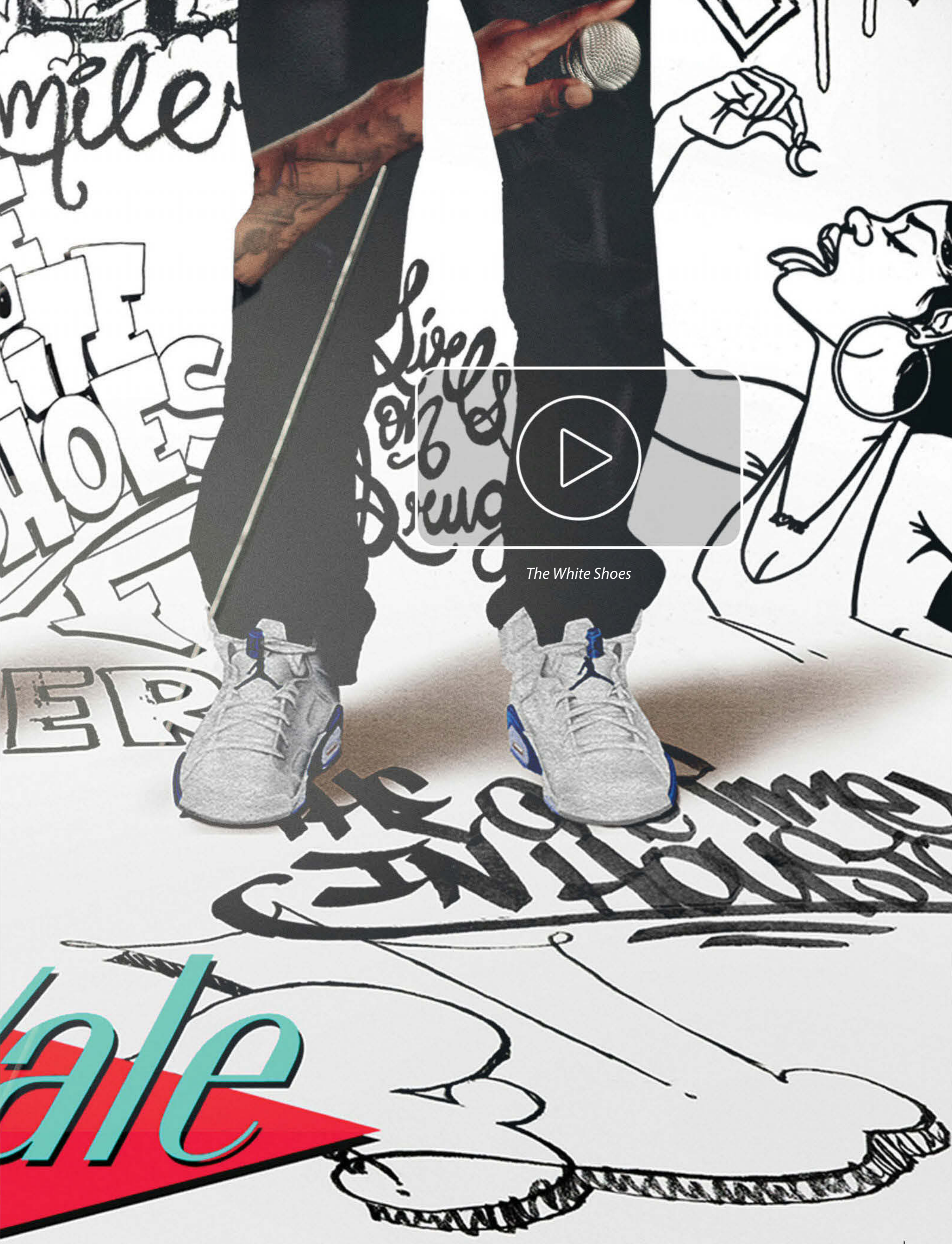
★★★★★
459 Ratings



The Body




makin plans
the 1988 OG III
Wedding
Page


The White Shoes





Taylor Swift Wins Artist of The Year at iHeartRadio Awards

The iHeartRadio Music Awards should be called the iHeartTaylorSwift Awards.

The pop singer cleaned house at the show Sunday, winning artist of the year and song of the year for “Shake It Off,” and even assisted Madonna by strumming her guitar onstage while the pop icon sang a new song.

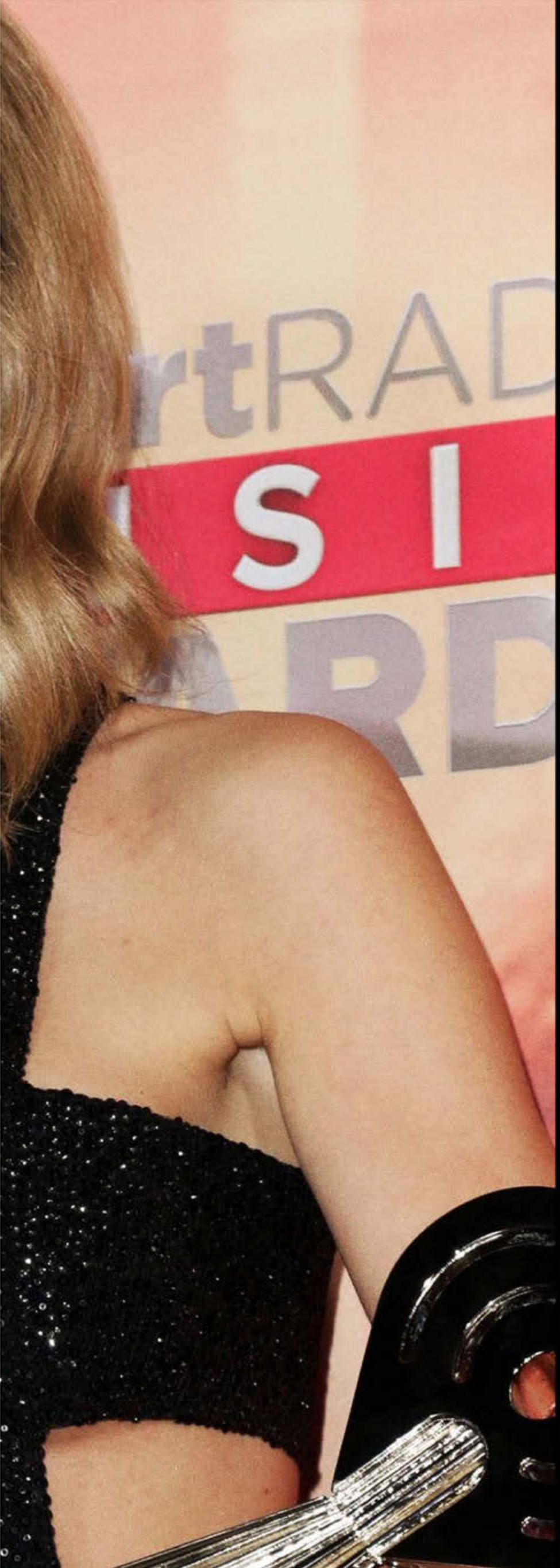
“More than anything in the world, I just hope that any of the fans watching know how much I adore you … we’ve gotten closer and closer with each year, not further apart,” a glossy-eyed Swift said at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. “Like, you make me so happy.” The pop star also won best lyrics for her other hit song, “Blank Space.”

Madonna, whose recent awards show performances were energetic and upbeat, toned it down when singing “Rebel Heart” while Swift played guitar next to her.

“My favorite guitar player, yeah!” Madonna said as she presented Swift with song of the year.

The second annual iHeartRadio Music Awards also featured Rihanna, Justin Timberlake, Chris





Brown and Iggy Azalea. Guests sat at traditional tables - in the vein of the Golden Globes - instead of typical awards show seats. Chris Brown sat with Ludacris, while Swift's table included Snoop Dogg, Ryan Seacrest and Timberlake.

The former boy band member, who earned the iHeartRadio Innovator Award for his accomplishments as an entertainer, told the audience that he was called "weird" as a teenager, and offered encouraging words to teens experiencing teasing and bullying.

"Growing up in school, no one ever called me anything close to an innovator, they called me different, they called me weird, they called me a couple of other words I can't say on TV," Timberlake said. "So thankfully my mother taught me that being different was a good thing, that being different meant you could actually make a difference, so tonight I want to thank my mom."

Timberlake, whose wife Jessica Biel is pregnant with their first child, also thanked the actress, who didn't attend the awards show which aired on NBC. "Finally, I want to thank my best friend, my favorite collaborator, my wife Jessica," he said.

Rihanna performed her new single, "B---- Better Have My Money," for the first time. The b-word wasn't bleeped throughout the performance, where Rihanna sported a bright green mink with matching knee high boots and sunglasses.

Azalea and Jennifer Hudson kicked off the show with a jail-themed performance: Azalea was dressed as an inmate and Hudson as a police officer as they performed "Trouble" with a set design that included bathroom stalls and a jail cell with laser light bars.

Nick Jonas followed the theme with his arms and neck tied in thick chains, while he sang his latest hit, "Chains," as dancers wearing black and white stripes danced around him. Jamie Foxx hosted the fan-voted show and performed a new song with Brown. Foxx also told jokes about


NBC



celebrities, including Bruce Jenner, Suge Knight and Marvin Gaye. “Marvin Gaye had an incredible year. Marvin Gaye had the No. 1 song featuring Pharrell and Robin Thicke,” he said. “He’s making beats in heaven. He might be dead, but he ain’t dead broke.”

Meghan Trainor, Florida Georgia Line, Snoop Dogg, Jason Derulo and Kelly Clarkson also performed during the three-hour event.

Jason Aldean, who also hit the stage, won country song of the year for “Burnin’ It Down.”

“I want to thank my new wife Brittany over there,” said Aldean, who got married last week.

Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj and Jessie J won best collaboration for “Bang Bang,” Hozier’s “Take Me to Church” won alternative rock song of the year and Calvin Harris’ “Summer” won dance song of the year.

Jeremih and YG won hip-hop/R&B song of the year for “Don’t Tell `Em,” beating out Beyonce and Jay Z’s “Drunk In Love.”

“Since I didn’t get my Grammy nomination for best rap album ... I’ll roll with this,” rapper YG said.

Azalea and Smith - who won best new artist and accepted in a video message - were the top nominees with five apiece. They - along with Grande and Luke Bryan - lost artist of the year to Swift. The awards show also featured numerous video packages with musicians talking about their careers, from Minaj to Imagine Dragons.

Online:

http://news.iheart.com/features/iheartradio-music-awards-15



APPLE SQUARES UP TO THE CABLE NETWORKS

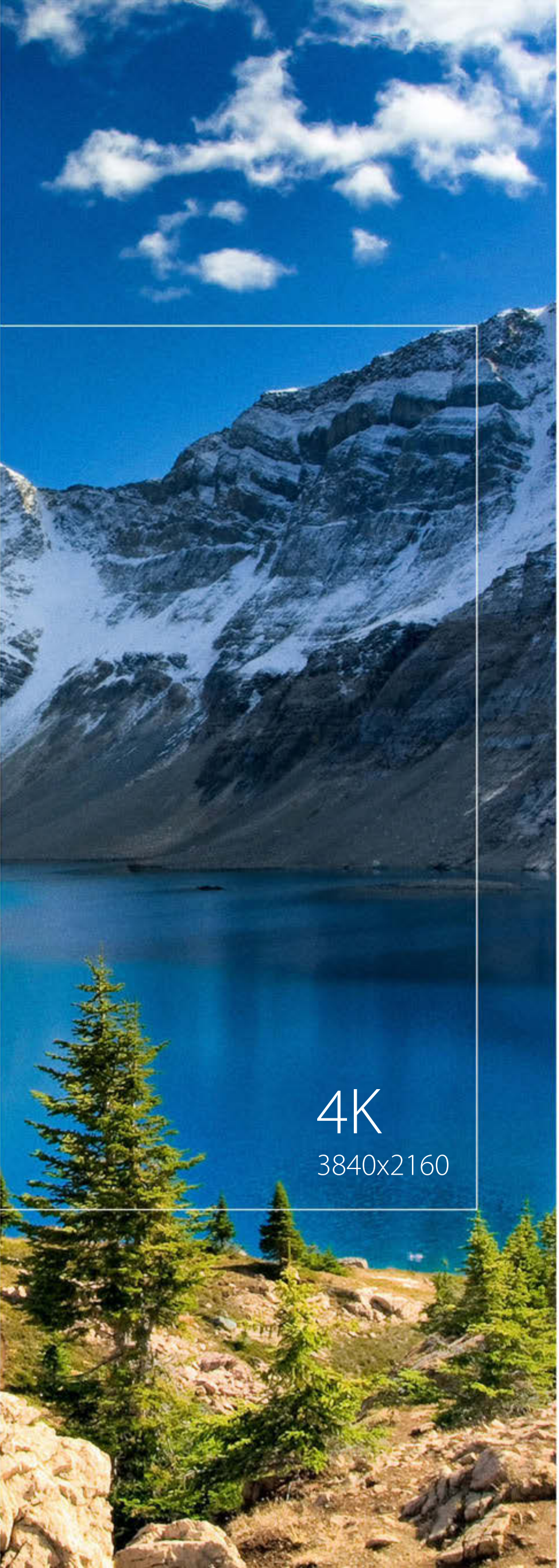
Talk of an exciting future for the Apple TV



DVD
720x480

HDTV
1280x720

Full HD
1920x1080



NEW SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE RUMORED FOR 2015

The Apple TV digital media player has always had a slightly curious place in the Cupertino giant's hardware range. There has been such a device since 2007, and it is presently in its third generation - albeit, a generation that has not seen a significant update for three years. The microconsole has also long been likened to a "hobby" by Apple executives, **and yet, bigger plans seem to be afoot - including a subscription service and possible 4K content**.

There has been talk of Apple TV taking on a bigger role within the company for many years now, but there had been few stirrings in terms of actual announcements until, at the firm's most recent March 9 keynote, a price drop from $99 to $69 was confirmed. As insignificant a move as it may seem in the grand scheme of things, it has simply been the trigger for further speculation about the future of this forgotten child of the Apple family of products.

Despite the Apple TV never being a strong seller, the firm has continued to support it, and indeed, the last few years have seen evidence that it will soon be going up in the world, considerable improvements having been made to its hardware and content. Buy an Apple TV now, and you can already use it to watch more than 40 different channels, including HBO GO and Netflix.





WHISPERS OF A SUBSCRIPTION TV SERVICE

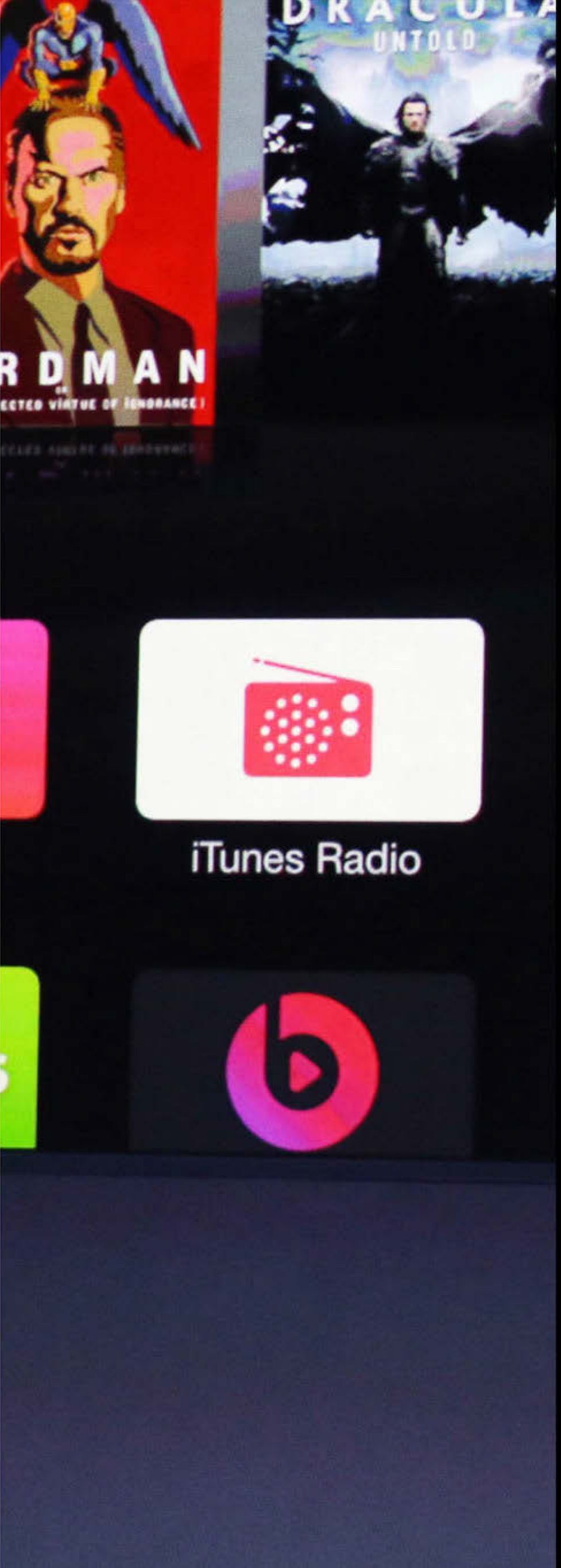
But with late former CEO Steve Jobs having been quoted in the past as having "finally cracked" television, as well as his successor Tim Cook admitting that it remained a field of "intense interest" for the company, many have wondered whether Apple TV will soon become more... much more. Such pondering has been further stoked by reports that the company is planning a limited, low-cost streaming service.

Various media sources - including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times - have referred to talks apparently held between Apple and numerous "leading television groups", as the former looks to **develop an Internet-based TV service that would be accessible through not just the Apple TV, but also the iPhone and iPad**.

Anonymous "people briefed on the company's plans" are reported as claiming that the proposed service will be unveiled later this year and will offer a smaller and more affordable bundle of channels than is available through a typical cable subscription. These same sources cited networks owned by the television groups Disney, CBS, Discovery and Fox as possible providers of content for the new service. This means that viewers could be treated to the likes of CBS, ABC, Fox, ESPN and Discovery Channel, although the exact number of channels is yet to be confirmed.



Image: Robert Galbraith



THE CHANNELS AND PRICING THAT COULD SAVE OR SCUPPER APPLE TV

The Wall Street Journal's report suggested a lineup of 25 channels for the streaming service's initial rollout, but for those who might consider that a little on the light side, an article in The Journal provides some encouragement. It indicates that **Apple is bidding to bulk up that offering through talks with both Discovery Channel and Viacom**, so that it can offer such networks as Animal Planet, TLC, MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon and Comedy Central.

Naturally, a lot of the speculation about this subscription service has centered on pricing. One of the individuals mentioned in The Wall Street Journal's piece tipped a $20 to $25 monthly fee, while another claimed that it would be around $30. These sources suggested that the final price would depend on the aforementioned negotiations with television groups, as well as the exact channels offered.

Amid talk that even a $40 monthly subscription charge is not out of the question, one analyst has urged Apple to aim lower if it is not to price itself out of the market. In a note to investors that was shared with AppleInsider, **Rod Hall of J.P. Morgan pointed out that Comcast offered both basic Internet and a cable television service for an incremental cost of lower than $40 per month**, which would not make an Apple streaming-only service very attractive at the same price point.

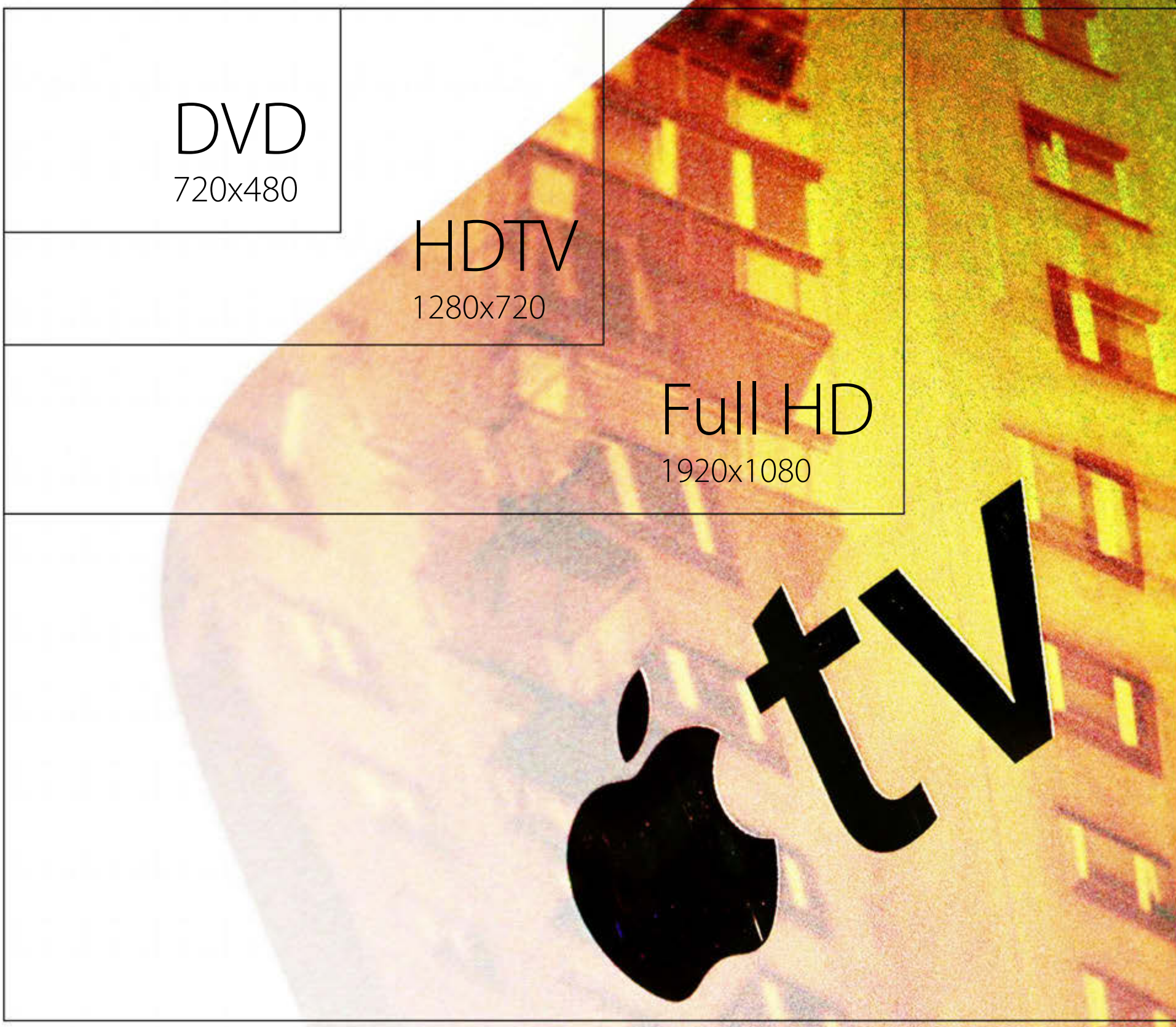




PLUTO TV MIGHT POINT THE WAY AHEAD

There's certainly a lot for Apple to think about if it is to launch a successful subscription service of its own, which could launch as soon as September. Many eyes are on the company's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in June for the potential disclosure of further details.

A lot has been said, too, about the direction in which Apple TV could go with a streaming


DVD
720x480
HDTV
1280x720
Full HD
1920x1080

service like this - including 4K content. Unbeknown to most due to the lack of any announcement, **the A8 chip in the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus has the ability to play back 4K ultra HD videos at 3840 x 2160 pixels**, which isn't a feature shared by many of the other recent smartphone models.

What's more, the Wall Street billionaire with a significant stake in Apple, Carl Icahn, has previously written an open letter to Apple head honchos, urging them to get involved in the 4K TV market by about 2016. Further evidence that now is the time for a company like Apple to embrace 4K content comes in the emergence of Pluto TV, **a startup that curates web-video content into channels akin to watching TV**.

Pluto TV has been pressing ahead by signing distribution deals with AOL and Endemol Beyond USA. It also has its own Ultra HD channel **and will be available on the NVIDIA Shield, a new Android TV powered 4K gaming console**.

4K
3840x2160


HBO

APPLE'S PLACE IN THE EVOLVING WORLD OF TV

In a recent blog post on the Stratechery website of the technology writer and consultant Ben Thompson, entitled The changing - and unchanging - structure of TV, he gave greater insight into these latest rumors about an Apple TV subscription service, suggesting how it might work and what it might mean for the wider world of TV.

He referred back to a previous pronouncement of his that "Cable TV is socialism that works; subscribers pay equally for everything, and watch only what they want, to the benefit of everyone. Any 'grand vision' Apple, or any other tech company, has for television is likely to sustain the current model, not disrupt it directly."

Thompson also outlined a series of factors that he said made Apple "a particularly attractive partner for content companies", including that the company was able to increase the addressable market by providing access to individuals, as well as that it was one of the few firms that had successfully convinced young people to pay for content. Thirdly, he added that the Cupertino firm was experienced in the management of the customer relationship.

He wrote: "I believe these factors explain why it is that HBO NOW is launching first with Apple: the people willing to pay for HBO are likely already using Apple devices, Apple can get them to pay, and Apple has the infrastructure to manage the relationship."



Image: Laura Johnston



A STREAMING SERVICE WITH WIDE-RANGING BENEFITS

When one also considers the scope for such a subscription service to increase the attractiveness of the iPhone and Watch, it becomes clear just how profound the advantages could be across the Californian giant's ecosystem. Consumers will win, too, given the offer of superior integration with their devices, an improved user interface and Apple's already strong customer service offering.

It's almost like no one loses from such an arrangement - so is the Apple TV streaming service inevitable? It increasingly looks so, but we'll have to wait and see what happens in the months ahead. ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan





TOP 10 SONGS

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)
Mark Ronson

THINKING OUT LOUD
Ed Sheeran

LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO (FROM "FIFTY SHADES OF GREY")
Ellie Goulding

FOURFIVESECONDS
Rihanna and Kanye West and Paul McCartney

EARNED IT (FROM "FIFTY SHADES OF GREY")
The Weeknd

STYLE
Taylor Swift

TIME OF OUR LIVES
Pitbull

TAKE ME TO CHURCH
Hozier

GDFR (FEAT. SAGE THE GEMINI & LOOKAS)
Flo Rida

I WANT YOU TO KNOW (FEAT. SELENA GOMEZ)
Zedd





TOP 10 ALBUMS

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK)
Various Artists

1989
Taylor Swift

X (DELUXE EDITION)
Ed Sheeran

SMOKE + MIRRORS
Imagine Dragons

SPRING BREAK...CHECKIN' OUT
Luke Bryan

SOUND & COLOR
Alabama Shakes

MONTEVALLO
Sam Hunt

AMERICAN BEAUTY / AMERICAN PSYCHO
Fall Out Boy

PIECE BY PIECE (DELUXE VERSION)
Kelly Clarkson

IN THE LONELY HOUR (DELUXE VERSION)
Sam Smith



TOP 10 MUSIC VIDEOS

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)
Mark Ronson

SHAKE IT OFF
Taylor Swift

BLANK SPACE
Taylor Swift

STYLE
Taylor Swift

ALL ABOUT THAT BASS
Meghan Trainor

ONE LAST TIME
Ariana Grande

FIRST KISS
Kid Rock

LIVING FOR LOVE
Madonna

LIPS ARE MOVIN
Meghan Trainor

HAPPY (FROM DESPICABLE ME 2)
Pharrell Williams





TOP 10 TV SHOWS

THE DISTANCE
The Walking Dead, Season 5

IT'S ALL MY FAULT
How to Get Away With Murder, Season 1

THE WANDERER
Vikings, Season 3

THE NIGHT LILA DIED
How to Get Away With Murder, Season 1

HERO
Better Call Saul, Season 1

STARING AT THE END
Grey's Anatomy, Season 11

CONNECTION LOST
Modern Family, Season 6

INTENT
Suits, Season 4

THEM
The Walking Dead, Season 5

THE INTIMACY ACCELERATION
The Big Bang Theory, Season 8

The Nig



TOP 10 BOOKS

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN
Paula Hawkins

FIFTY SHADES DARKER
E L James

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY
E L James

FIFTY SHADES FREED
E L James

A THOUSAND ACRES
Jane Smiley

AMERICAN SNIPER
Chris Kyle and Others

FIFTY SHADES TRILOGY BUNDLE
E L James

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kristin Hannah

STILL ALICE
Lisa Genova

GONE GIRL
Gillian Flynn


sky
BOX SETS
sky
ATLANTIC



Aidan Gillen of 'Game of Thrones' Narrating 'The Art of War'

A new audiobook recording of Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" will soon be available with the perfect narrator - the scheming royal adviser Littlefinger from "Game of Thrones."

Audible Inc., the world's largest seller of downloadable audiobooks, is getting ready to release a new version of the Chinese military strategist's advice featuring the narration of Aidan Gillen, who plays Lord Petyr Baelish on the HBO hit show.



It will be available Tuesday.

Gillen sees a connection between the book and TV show. “There’s no way the writing staff of `Game of Thrones’ haven’t read `The Art of War,’” he wrote by email. “There’s definitely an influence on `Game of Thrones’ from this book in both a general way and on the character of Lord Baelish and his strategies.”

“The Art of War” is one of the world’s most revered books on strategy, emphasizing flexibility, postponing attack until circumstances are in your favor and urging readers to exploit any weaknesses. Many of its lessons have been adopted by the business community.

The Irish-born Gillen’s credits include “The Dark Knight Rises” and HBO’s “The Wire.” He has narrated a few audiobooks, including “Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha,” a novel by Irish writer Roddy Doyle.

Gillen hadn’t read “The Art of War” before he was asked to narrate it and said he went to look for the book in the politics section of a bookshop. It turned out to be in the philosophy area. “It’s a pretty wisdom packed and practical manuscript written with the flourish of a philosopher,” he wrote.

Online:

http://www.audible.com/artofwar





NBC, Cirque Du Soleil Bringing 'The Wiz' to TV, Broadway

"The Wiz" is coming to TV and back to Broadway with productions from NBC and Cirque du Soleil.

NBC said Monday it will air a Dec. 3 live production of the hit 1970s stage reinvention of "The Wizard of Oz." Its partner on the TV version will be Cirque du Soleil's new stage theatrical division, which will then present "The Wiz" on Broadway for the 2016-17 season.

Live musicals are becoming a NBC holiday month tradition: The network scored nearly 19 million viewers for "The Sound of Music" starring Carrie Underwood in December 2013, although less than half that number tuned in for last year's "Peter Pan Live!"





In January, NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt said the network remained committed to such projects and was weighing either “The Wiz” or “The Music Man” next.

“Cirque’s incredible imagination will help bring the fantasy world of Oz vividly to life and give this great show a modern spin on the age-old story we all love,” Greenblatt said in a statement Monday.

Tony-Award-winning director Kenny Leon (“A Raisin in the Sun”) will stage the TV production and Broadway revival of “The Wiz” in collaboration with fellow Tony winner Harvey Fierstein (“Torch Song Trilogy,” “Hairspray”), who’s to contribute new material.

Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, executive producers for NBC’s previous musicals, will have the same jobs for “The Wiz,” the network said.

“The Wiz” was adapted from “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum, with a book by William F. Brown, and music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls. The production opened on Broadway in 1975 and won seven Tonys, including best musical.

Casting for the TV and stage versions wasn’t announced.

The original Broadway production featured Stephanie Mills as Dorothy, Dee Dee Bridgewater as good witch Glinda and Andre De Shields as the Wiz. Mills returned as Dorothy in a 1984 revival.

A 1978 movie version of “The Wiz” starred Diana Ross, Lena Horne and Richard Pryor in those respective roles. Michael Jackson co-starred as the Scarecrow, with Nipsey Russell as the Tinman and Ted Ross as the Lion.

Health

WHITE HOUSE UNVEILS PLAN TO FIGHT ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT GERMS

The White House on Friday announced a five-year plan to fight the threat posed by antibiotic-resistant bacteria amid fears that once-treatable germs could become deadly.

Repeated exposure to antibiotics can lead germs to become resistant to the drugs, so that they are no longer effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that drug-resistant bacteria cause 23,000 deaths and 2 million illnesses each year in the United States.

The World Health Organization said last year that bacteria resistant to antibiotics have spread to every part of the world and might lead to a future where minor infections like strep throat could kill. Antibiotic resistance also threatens animal health, agriculture and the economy.

President Barack Obama, who ordered the plan, said drug-resistant bacteria are one of the most serious public health issues.

“This is one of those problems that doesn’t always rise to the top of people’s day-to-day concerns until somebody in the family is impacted,” Obama told reporters before meeting privately Friday with members of his advisory council on science and technology. “We take antibiotics for granted for a lot of illnesses that can be deadly or debilitating.”

“If we start seeing those medicines diminish in effectiveness, we’re going to have problems,” he said.

The White House’s overall goal is to prevent and contain outbreaks of infections at home and abroad. It’s aiming to maintain the ability of current antibiotics to fight illnesses and develop new treatments.

The plan is the result of an order Obama signed in September forming a task force on the issue. Obama also has asked Congress to nearly double its funding to fight antibiotic resistance to $1.2 billion.

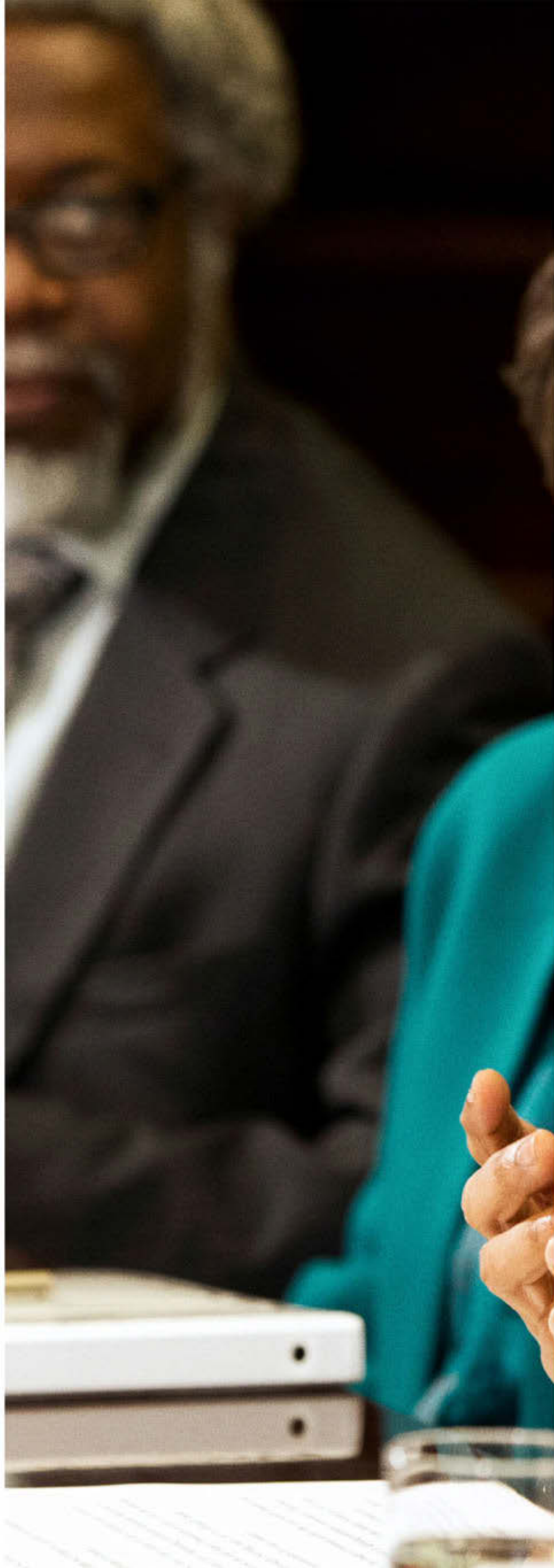




Critics said the White House needs to go further, particularly in terms of the antibiotics used in animals processed for meat. The Food and Drug Administration has already successfully encouraged many drug companies to phase out the use of antibiotics used for animal growth promotion. But advocacy groups have called on the agency to limit other uses of animal antibiotics as well, such as for disease prevention when holding animals in crowded conditions.

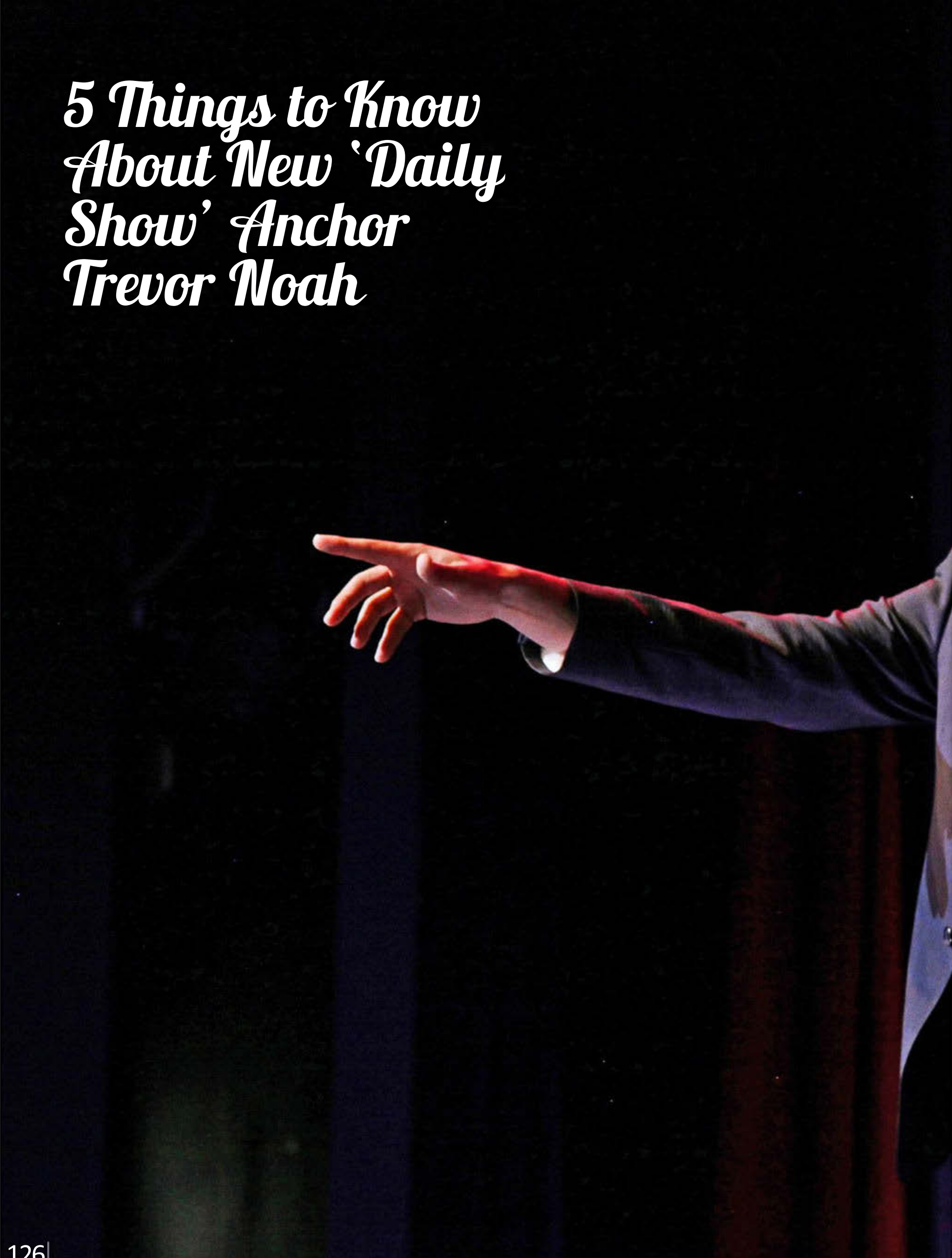
“Once again, the administration has fallen woefully short of taking meaningful action to curb the overuse of antibiotics in healthy food animals,” said New York Democratic Rep. Louise Slaughter, a microbiologist who has sponsored legislation to stop routine antibiotic use in animal farming.

“With 80 percent of the antibiotics produced in the United States being used in agriculture mostly for prevention, any meaningful solution to the looming antibiotic resistance crisis must begin with limits on the farm - and trusting a voluntary policy that lets industry police itself will not bring about real change,” she said.





5 Things to Know About New 'Daily Show' Anchor Trevor Noah





You hadn't heard of Trevor Noah before? Or maybe you recognized him as that handsome, funny guy who's made a few appearances as a correspondent on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show"?

Well, now that he's been named as the successor to soon-to-be-departing host Jon Stewart, it's time to boost your Noah IQ. Here are five things to know:





1. This 31-year-old South African comedian may not be a household name in the U.S. just now, but he's pretty popular elsewhere. He tours the world, has hosted a late-night talk show in South Africa ("Tonight With Trevor Noah") and boasts 2 million Twitter followers - even without you!

2. It's not so bad if lots of people in the U.S. don't know him yet, since the right handful of people do. "I've been lucky to count one of my fans as Jon Stewart," Noah said Monday, quickly adding, "I'm obviously a huge fan of his."



3. He was the subject of a 2011 documentary film by David Paul Meyer, “You Laugh But It’s True,” which uses his experiences as the child of a racially mixed couple at a time when interracial relationships were forbidden in South Africa as the lens for the successful comedian he became.

4. As he claims the “Daily Show” anchor chair sometime later this year, Noah represents strong evidence of the globalization of American television. “He comes from a generation living in a very multicultural world that most of our audience lives in,” says Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless. “I think people will connect with him regardless of where he was born and where he grew up, as a citizen of the world.”

5. Reflecting his status as a man about the world, Noah is multi-lingual. He speaks six languages. And that doesn’t include Comedy.

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